



MENDON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

20 Main Street
Mendon, MA 01756
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Wayne Wagner Chairman
Jane Lowell
Ellen Wagner
Don Colanton
Michael Goddard
Kathleen Schofield

Meeting Date	April 5, 2016 at 7pm
Location	Mendon Town Hall
Status	Approved

Present

Wayne Wagner, Don Colanton, Kathy Schofield, Jane Lowell, Mike Goddard, Lynne Roberts, Dan Byer and Jeanne Kohles

7:05 Call to Order

Chairman Wayne Wagner called the meeting to order.

7:05 Presentation Dan Byer

Dan Byer came in to request CPA Historical Funds to convert the 16mm films of Mendon's 300th Celebration, which were located in Doug Taylor's garage. Dan mentioned that there were also many parade items from the town's 325th celebration. Matthew Taylor has current possession of those items. Dan is hoping to show the film at the Drive In as part of the 350th Celebration. He requested \$1000.00 to digitize the films. Jane moved to request \$1000.00 from the CPA Historical account to pay for the conversion of the films. Don seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Dan asked about ownership of the Taft Cemetery on Millville St. To date the Klinkman Family has maintained the site. It was believed that the Lamosse Family owned the cemetery. Dan believes it is now in the jurisdiction of the town and would become the responsibility of the parks department. The Historical Commission thought it would be a good idea to bring this topic to the Board of Selectmen and Town Counsel to clarify who is the owner of the cemetery.

The Cook Cemetery was mentioned and Jane suggested that Mr. Stewart be approached to see if he may know the whereabouts of the stones from that cemetery.

7:15 Review Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from February were reviewed. Kathy moved to accept the minutes as written. Mike seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion to accept.

7:20 Town Hall Sign Approval

The Commission reviewed the new proposal for the Town Hall Sign. Two errors were picked up and Wayne asked that we confirm the dates that the building served as the High School. Kathy will make the corrections and review a final proof.

7:30 Updates Miscosco Springs, Cox Property, 30 Miscosco Road and 29 Hastings Street

Jane reported the deal between Sylvan (Miscosco) Springs and Mr. Meehan fell through. She reported that there were additional inquiries on the building so as it stands there are still some options. The Cox property was partially cleaned out by Mr. Afonso. The Planning Board wants to see the remaining materials cleaned up. Until then they will not release any lots and the Cox house cannot be released until the work is completed to the board's satisfaction. The BOS and Town Counsel determined that the town is not obligated to offer first right of refusal on the house to Mr. Afonso who requested it. The sale status of 30 Miscosco Road is unclear right now.

The Commission discussed 29 Hastings Street and the fire department drill that was performed at that property. No Demolition Application was submitted for the structure and the 1840 Wood Homestead is included on the State Register of Historic Properties. The owner of the building did not follow the appropriate protocol.

The group reviewed the criteria of the Demolition Delay Bylaw and determined that the property meets criteria #1 and #4 of the Demolition Delay Bylaw and criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places. Jane moved to declare this structure historically significant based on meeting those criteria as set forth in the Demolition Delay Bylaw Chapter XXIV. Don seconded the motion. All members voted unanimously in favor of the motion. The homeowner will be notified by registered mail of the determination and process going forward. In the interim Commission members will meet with the Board of Selectmen to discuss the failure on the part of all parties involved to follow the proper procedure for demolition.

As a result of the ongoing issues the Commission is faced with, the group discussed additional measures needed in order to avoid future problems. The Commission will investigate closing gaps in the bylaw, examining demolition by neglect issues and proactive outreach measures that could be taken with homeowners whose properties may be at risk. Wayne suggested developing a comprehensive Preservation Plan to share with residents. This plan would look into any possible levels of assistance that can be shared with historic property owners.

8:00 Cemetery Bid Review and Award

Kathy completed reference checks on all three bids that were submitted for the Old Cemetery Restoration. Two had very strong support. The lowest and most responsible bid came from Gravestone Services LLC owner Kia Nalenz. The Commission reviewed the bids and Mike made a motion to award the contract to Gravestone Services. Don seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Kathy and Jane will schedule Mr. Nalenz to come to Town and sign the contract with the Town Administrator.

8:20 Historic District Study Committee Report

Mike and Lynne reported back on their meeting with Dick Grady and John Trainor who presented their power point on the History of Mendon. Of notable interest are the properties that define the Golden Age of Mendon. The committee is looking at setting the proposed district boundaries inside the Center Historic District. This would include the triangle of Maple Street, Hastings Street and Main Street. They are scheduled to meet with Chris Skelley on April 26 and invited the commission members to join them. It was suggested that we take advantage of the Memorial Day Parade to do some public outreach. We could set up a table to display maps and information on Historic Districts and introduce and hand out applications for the Historic Plaque Program as well. Jane will (not) bake cookies :)

8:45 Olney Cook Shop Signs

Jeanne Kohles came in to discuss next steps for the Olney Cook information sign. She presented her current proposal. The Commission members discussed size and location of the sign as well as content. Jane agreed to take the proposal home and review the information on the sign and determine what if any of that information was least relevant.

9:00 Demolition Permit for Shed at Corner of Route 16 and Hartford Ave. West

Following a brief discussion Jane moved to approve the demolition of the shed located at the corner of Route 16 and Hartford Ave. West. Mike seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

9:10 Adjourn

Jane moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of adjourning. The next meeting will be scheduled for April 26, 2016 at 6:30pm.